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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Seventeenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART (PUBLIC)*
OF THE 54th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 5 December 1997, at 12.45 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. ALSTON

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document E/C.12/1997/SR.54.

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GE.97-19642 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.45 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (agenda item 2) (continued)

Honoraria

1. The CHAIRPERSON drew the Committee's attention to a provision in a recently adopted resolution of the General Assembly requesting the Secretary-General to include, in the report he would prepare pursuant to the resolution, a detailed explanation for the basis for the payment of honoraria to the members of the human rights treaty bodies and suggestions to improve coherence in that regard. Although that procedure would delay further the resolution of the issue, it should facilitate the taking of a final decision sometime in 1998, provided the measure had the support of the Secretariat, which had not always been the case in the past.

Subject for general discussion at the eighteenth session

2. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that two suitable topics might be globalization and primary education.

3. Mr. GRISSA said globalization would be a difficult topic for discussion because it was a vast and overwhelming subject. In his opinion, the phenomenon was unstoppable, and it would be difficult to assign responsibility for it.

4. The CHAIRPERSON said if the topic of globalization were dismissed as undefinable and unstoppable, the fact that there were major and identifiable implications of globalization for economic and social rights would be overlooked.

5. Mr. TEXIER said it would be most appropriate to devote the general discussion to the topic of globalization, but such discussion should be limited to its relevance to the rights relating to work enshrined in articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. A number of important issues, including the localization, the role of free zones, trade union freedom and forced labour could be explored.

6. After an exchange of views in which Mr. CEAUSU, Mrs. JIMENEZ BUTRAGUEÑO and Mr. WIMER took part, the CHAIRPERSON said he took it that the Committee agreed in principle on globalization as the topic for general discussion at the eighteenth session, within the limits indicated. A final decision would be taken at the next session.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

7. The parts of the Committee's annual report in documents E/C.12/1997/CRP.1 and Add.1 and CRP.2 were adopted.

8. The CHAIRPERSON said that the annual report would also cover Draft General Comment No. 8 (1997) and the general discussion.

9. It was proposed that the report on the mission to the Dominican Republic should be included in the annual report. A copy of the mission report would be sent to the Government of the Dominican Republic, along with a covering letter from the Chairman requesting, within a year, the Government's comments on the matters raised in the report.

10. It was so agreed.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

11. The CHAIRPERSON informed the Committee that the pre-sessional working group would be comprised of Mr. Ahmed, Mrs. Bonoan-Dandan, Mr. Ceville, Mrs. Jimenez Butragueño and Mr. Kouznetsov.

12. Thanking the members of the Committee and other persons involved in its work, he declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.